



JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT

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Stand Like a Stone Wall!

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91st Troop Command

Military history proclaims that the "Stonewall Brigade" was one of history's greatest units. The unit was renowned for its extraordinary mobility and defeating enemy forces of superior numbers. The Commander who molded this extraordinary military unit was General Thomas J. Jackson.

General Jackson was a man of great resilience and spiritual strength. Jackson possessed great determination and focus on achieving his goals. Due to his poor grades, he nearly flunked out of West Point. But with great determination and resiliency Jackson studied long hours and his grade point average improved to the top of his class. It is said that if the West Point curriculum required one more year for graduation, then Jackson would have graduated as the top cadet in his class.

During the battle of "First Bull Run" in the Civil War. General Jackson became a casualty as a musket ball hit his left hand, breaking his middle finger and lacerating his forefinger. General Jackson didn't withdraw from the battle, but with great resiliency he wrapped his hand with a handkerchief and the Southern forces rallied behind his leadership to defeat the Union forces. Thus he attained the famous nickname of "Stonewall Jackson" and his brigade was named "The Stonewall Brigade."

General Jackson teaches us great lessons in resiliency and spiritual strength at the battle of "First Bull Run." First, he teaches us that a strong sustained focus on one's goal is paramount to success. Jackson's goal was to defeat the Northern forces. He was wounded at a point in the battle when the Northern forces could have won. With the threat of enemy victory and the pain from his wounding, Jackson could have caved in mentality and lost focus of his goal to defeat the Northern forces. But with great persevering determination, and despite his pain, Jackson kept a strong focus on his goal to defeat the Union forces. As a result of his strong focus on defeating the Union forces, the Southern forces rallied around his leadership and Jackson became renowned as a great Army General.

So too in life, we all will face life battles. In our life battles we can get wounded and incur setbacks. But if we resolve to keep a strong persevering focus on our goals and not cave in to our wounds and setbacks, then resiliency will be developed in our character and we will find life fulfillment. The key is to keep a strong determined focus on one's goal for life fulfillment and not give in to setbacks.

Secondly, "Stonewall Jackson" wrote that it was God who gave him the inner strength and courage for his military success. God's Holy Word in 2 Timothy 1:7-8 states: "For God does not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline." In our life battles, there will always be the temptation to give in to fear. But let us keep a strong determined persevering focus on defeating our life battles and we will find life fulfillment. Let us turn to God who desires to give us His power, love and self-discipline for life and we will find the life fulfillment and peace that transcends all understanding.